

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 030905Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1173

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

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SECDEF PASS DSAA/ISA (SA)

CINCPAC PASS J5, J8 AND POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS, OREP (BRADY, JOHN AND PITCHFORD, GERALD)

SUBJECT: VISIT STAFFDEL BRADY/PITCHFORD TO ROK

REF: (A) CINCPAC 050319Z JUN 75

(B) CINCPAC 062004Z JUN 75

(C) JAKARTA 7386

(D) SEOUL 4890

SUMMARY: DURING JUNE 20-25 SEOUL VISIT STAFF DEL EXAMINED IN DETAIL U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO KOREA. MESSRS. BRADY AND PITCHFORD EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH PRESENT POLICY OF MOVING FROM GRANT ASSISTANCE TO FMS CREDIT AND CASH. THEY PURSUED EXTENSIVELY THE NEEDS FOR A MAG AFTER MAJOR GRANT AID PROGRAMS FINISHED. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH IMPACT EDA LEGISLATION ON KOREAN MAP PROGRAM AND WITH STATUS ROK WAR RESERVE AMMUNITION. STAFFDEL ALSO QUESTIONED EMBASSY ABOUT FIRING ON ROK FREIGHTER PRIOR TO MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

1. STAFFDEL DESIRED TO ASSESS IMPACT CONGRESSIONAL

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ENDING GRANT AID, WHICH THEY SEE AS INEVITABLE, ON

MAP PROGRAMS AND STRUCTURE MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP (MAG). DELEGATION DISCUSSED GENERAL SECURITY POSTURE ON PENINSULA WITH AMBASSADOR AND CINCUNC; THEY DISCUSSED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION WITH EMBOFFS AND HAD EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS AND MEETINGS WITH JUSMAG AND WITH USFK LOGISTICIANS. ON ROK SIDE THEY MET WITH YI SANG-OK, MOFA AMERICA BUREAU DIRECTOR AND MGEN PAEK SOK-CHU (PAIK SEOK-CHU), ASST MINISTER INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS, MND.

2. DELEGATION ASKED WHAT REQUIREMENTS STILL REMAIN FOR GRANT AID. WE REPLIED THAT IF CONGRESS PROVIDES GRANT AID TO COMPLETE MAJOR ONGOING PROJECTS WHICH ROKS CONSIDER OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS, SUCH AS \$5.5 MILLION TO COMPLETE F-5E PROGRAM, \$12 MILLION FOR F-5BS, \$38 MILLION REMAINING COMMITMENT ON CPIC (PLUS CONTINUED TRAINING) ROKG PREPARED TO FINANCE REMAINING REQUIREMENTS WITH FMS AND COMMERCIAL CREDIT. ROKS PROVIDED ESSENTIALLY SAME ANSWER EXCEPT THEY PRESENTED REMAINING GRANT CASES AS CLOSING OUT MOD PLAN OBLIGATION, AFTER WHICH THEY EXPECT NO FURTHER SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS GRANT AID. ASST MINISTER PAEK EMPHASIZED THAT, ESPECIALLY FOR NEXT FEW YEARS, NEED FOR FMS CREDIT VERY GREAT, IN EXCESS \$200 MILLION PER YEAR. AS TO TRAINING, STAFFDEL WERE OF STRONG OPINION GRANT AID SUPPORT SHOULD BE CONTINUED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. STAFFDEL INDICATED THAT CONCEPT OF PHASE-OUT GRANT AND INCREASE FMS CREDIT IN LINE WITH PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL THINKING. HOWEVER, THEY NOTED THAT ROK CREDIT REQUIREMENT GREATER THAN CONGRESS LIKELY TO PROVIDE.

4. MAKING IT CLEAR THEY BELIEVE ROK SHOULD BE PUT ON OWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BRADY AND PITCHFORD QUESTIONED JUSMAG CLOSELY ON ITS PROJECTED SIZE, ORGANIZATION AND ROLE IN POST GRANT AID PERIOD. WE POINTED OUT THAT HIGH LEVEL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT IS REQUIRED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO PROMOTE EFFICIENT ROK MANAGEMENT OF INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED ROK ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS, AND PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING SYSTEMS. ALSO THOUGH STAFFDEL GAVE NO OFFICIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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END-OF-TRIP POSITION, MR. BRADY IN FINAL REMARKS TO CJUSMAG-K IMPLIED THAT HE DID RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR SUCH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE. (HOWEVER, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF MR. BRADY INDICATED THAT HE STILL HAS RESERVATIONS AS TO HOW LONG PRESENT MAG FUNCTIONS AND SIZE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.)

5. STAFFDEL ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE WAS NEED FOR ANY MAG INVOLVEMENT IN ASSISTANCE EFFORT FOR

IN-COUNTRY WEAPONS PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENSE INDUSTRY, OFFERING OPINION THAT ALL SUCH EFFORT MAY PROPERLY BELONG IN PRIVATE SECTOR, FINANCED BY ROKG AND PROVIDED BY U.S. INDUSTRY AND U.S. SERVICE DEPARTMENTS (VIA FMS). WE POINTED OUT THAT BY FAR THE BULK OF SUCH ASSISTANCE IS ALREADY BEING PAID FOR BY ROK, AND THAT OUR SMALL STAFF OF TECHNICIANS PROVIDE ENGINEERING AND TEST AND EVALUATION MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE, ACT AS FOCAL POINT FOR EFFICIENT PLANNING OF ENGINEERING/INDUSTRIAL ASSISTANCE AND GIVE TECHNICAL HELP ON SPECIFIC SYSTEMS WHERE IT IS IMPROACTICAL OR UNTIMELY TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE VAI COMMERCIAL OR FMS ARRANGEMENTS. STAFFDEL DID NOT ANNOUNCE A FINAL POSITION ON THIS POINT. THEY ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE ENTIRE FOCUS OF MILITARY SALES EFFORT COULD BE BETWEEN A MILITARY PURCHASING OFFICE, LOCATED IN ROK WASHINGTON EMBASSY, AND WSHINGTON AGENCIES; WITH COUNTRY TEAM POL/MIL INPUT POSSIBLY COMING FROM EXPANDED DAO OR EMBASSY POL/MIL SECTION. HOWEVER, THEY DID ACKNOWLEDGE THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN MAKING SUCH A MOVE AT THIS TIME (WHEN ROKG STILL HAS INSUFFICIENT IN-HOUSE PROCUREMENT EXPERTISE AND AN INADEQUATE FREIGHT-FORWARDING SYSTEM). THEY ALSO RECOGNIZED THE DISADVANTAGES INHERENT IN ASSOCIATING AN ASSISTANCE EFFORT TOO CLOSELY WITH DAO.

6. DELEGATION WAS BRIEFED ON MAJOR ONGOING MAP PROGRAMS; THEY ALSO ASKED QUESTIONS ON HISTORY OF F-5 TRANSFER TO VIETNAM AND RESULTING BAILMENT OF F-4 SQUADRON. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH EFFECTS OF RECENT EDA LEGISLATION ON ROK PROGRAM, WERE TOLD THAT BECAUSE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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LEGISLATION EDA NOW A RARELY USABLE SOURCE OF HARDWARE FOR ROKS. THEY SAID THEY WILL STUDY PROBLEM AND OFFERED THOUGHT OF SEPARATE EDA CEILING WORLDWIDE WITH ITEMS CHARGED OFF AT FULL ACQUISITION COST.

7. FINAL AREA OF CONCERN RELATED TO MAP WAS SHORTFALL IN ROK WAR RESERVE AMMUNITION. THIS PARTICULARLY OFFSET BY US OWNED ROK MAINTAINED AMMUNITION UNDER PROJECT ROK AND SALSK AGREEMENTS. STAFFDEL, UPON INQUIRING IF WRITTEN AGREEMENT EXISTED STIPULATING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE US WAR RESERVE COULD BE USED, WERE INFORMED NO SUCH AGREEMENT EXISTS. THEY INDICATED THAT DOD INTERPRETATION OF LIMITATIONS ON FORWARD STOCKAGE OF WRM WAS MORE SEVERE THAN ANTICIPATED AND STATED THEY WILL LOOK INTO THIS

FURTHER. THEY DID SAY THEY BELIEVE SEPARATE MAP APPROPRIATION FOR WAR RESERVE AMMUNITION, OUTSIDE ANY COUNTRY MAP CELING, MAY BE NECESSARY TO SOLVE PROBLEM.

8. STAFFDEL INTEREST IN FIRING ON ROK FREIGHTER
NEAR CAMBODIA PRIOR TO MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT REPORTED
REF D.
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